



# ***NEWS RELEASE***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 27, 2006**

**CONTACT:**

Russ Heimerich (916) 574-8170

Miles Bristow (916) 574-8165

---

## **License of Osteopathic Pediatrician Suspended**

### ***State Board action stems from nationally-televised online teen sex-chat sting***

SAN DIEGO – The Osteopathic Medical Board of California today obtained an Interim Suspension Order (ISO) against osteopathic pediatrician Jeffrey R. Beck for alleged unprofessional conduct related to a news media “sting” in which he thought he was engaging in sexually explicit online chats with a teenaged boy, and even arranged to meet the individual he thought was a teenager.

The ISO was approved by a judge in the Office of Administrative Hearings and bars Beck, of Ramona, Calif., from practicing while the Board moves forward with a formal accusation of misconduct that could result in permanent revocation of Beck’s license.

Beck was featured in an MSNBC Dateline segment last year in which he agreed to meet a supposed 14-year-old boy, “Luke,” with whom he had corresponded in online chat rooms. “Luke” was actually a trained volunteer working for child-protection organization “Perverved Justice.” When Beck, then of Maryland, showed up at what he thought was “Luke’s” house in suburban Washington, D.C., last August, he was instead confronted by television cameras and a reporter.

The Board stated in its Accusation that the evidence establishes that the doctor’s “conduct is of such a nature that it has the capacity to cause substantial harm and injury to his patients.” The Accusation states Beck “is all the more dangerous because he practices pediatric medicine” and “is in contact with the very patient population he previously tried to solicit for sex. Nothing could be more dangerous.”

Beck, who moved from Maryland to California after the media exposure, was first licensed by the California Osteopathic Medical Board in 1979, but his license had been inactive for some time prior to December 28, 2005, when his request to reactivate the license was approved. Maryland authorities could not prosecute Beck criminally because that state’s laws require a police officer to take part in such online chat room sting investigations. Calls from Maryland authorities alerted the California Board to the alleged unprofessional conduct and the Board launched an investigation on January 6.

###